

## Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 PRS-01 H-02  
SSM-05 SSO-00 SIG-02 SS-15 NSC-05 NSCE-00 SP-02  
DODE-00 PM-04 ACDA-10 /090 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:EOJONES:RGH  
APPROVED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN  
S/PRS - MR. CARTER (INFO)  
H - MR. FLATEN (INFO)  
SSM - MR. MC ANDREW  
NEA - MR. CULLUMS  
NEA/ARN - MR. REUTHER  
NEA/ARP - MR. TWINAM  
NEA/PAB - MR. LANDE  
NEA/AFN - MS. WEISLOGEL  
NEA/IRN- MR. NAAS

-----290044Z 016089 /66

O 282315Z MAR 77  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY RABAT IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY MANAMA  
AMEMBASSY SANA  
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI  
AMEMBASSY TUNIS  
USMISSION SINAI  
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN  
USMISSION GENEVA  
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO  
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AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
USMISSION NATO  
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY ROME  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI  
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS  
USINT BAGHDAD  
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
AMEMBASSY DOHA  
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM  
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT  
USCINCEUR

UNCLAS STATE 068819

CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - MARCH 28

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS  
FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING FOR MARCH 28,  
1977:

Q. MAY I TAKE YOU TO MR. SADAT NOW AND HIS COMMENTS IN  
60 MINUTES AND HIS INTERVIEW IN BUSINESS WEEK AND  
APPARENTLY HIS PRICE FOR A NON-BELLIGERENCY AGREEMENT WITH  
ISRAEL WOULD BE FIVE TO TEN BILLION DOLLARS IN AID FROM THE  
UNITED STATES AND SORT OF WHAT HE CALLS "ADVENTURE  
CAPITAL" OR --  
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A. WHAT'S YOUR QUESTION, JOE?

Q. WELL, I'D LIKE TO KNOW WHETHER OR NOT THESE EGYPTIAN  
PROPOSALS ON WEAPONS OR CASH OR CREDITS HAVE ACTUALLY  
COME TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT OR THE UNITED STATES?

A. WE HAVE SEEN NO OFFICIAL REQUEST FROM EGYPT FOR ANY  
NEW MILITARY EQUIPMENT.

Q. YOU HAVE NO INDICATION FROM THE EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT

THAT THEY WILL BE ASKING FOR WEAPONS AND CREDITS?

A. WE'VE SEEN WHAT PRESIDENT SADAT HAS SAID ON 60 MINUTES  
AND WE KNOW WHAT HE SAID TO VISITING SENATORS AND  
CONGRESSMEN. HE'S INTERESTED IN OBTAINING MILITARY  
EQUIPMENT FROM THE UNITED STATES, AND HE'S MENTIONED THESE  
ARTICLES IN PARTICULAR. IF PRESIDENT SADAT RAISES  
THIS DURING HIS FORTHCOMING VISIT, WE'RE QUITE WILLING TO  
DISCUSS THE MATTER AS WELL AS ANY OTHER MATTER THAT HE  
WANTS TO RAISE. BUT I WOULD JUST REPEAT THAT WE'VE  
RECEIVED NO OFFICIAL REQUEST FROM EGYPT FOR ANY NEW  
MILITARY EQUIPMENT, AND BEYOND THAT I REALLY DON'T HAVE  
ANYTHING TO OFFER AT THIS JUNCTURE.

Q. WELL, YOU'RE SAYING NO REQUESTS FOR MILITARY EQUIPMENT. ANY REQUESTS FOR CREDITS?

A. I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THAT. YOU'RE JUST TALKING ABOUT MILITARY EQUIPMENT. I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THE CREDITS.

Q. THERE HAVE BEEN OTHER REQUESTS FOR MILITARY EQUIPMENT FROM THE EGYPTIANS.

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A. YES, THE C-130'S.

Q. YES. WELL, I MEAN THE C-130 IS WHAT WE AGREED TO GIVE THEM, BUT THE REQUEST FOR NEW --

A. THE NEW MILITARY EQUIPMENT, I'M SAYING, BEYOND THE C-130 DEAL THAT IS BEING IMPLEMENTED AT THE MOMENT. DOES THAT ANSWER YOUR QUESTION?

Q. WAS THERE ANOTHER QUESTION THAT WAS BEING RAISED HERE BY SOMEBODY?

Q. WELL, IT DOES IN PART, BUT I DIDN'T QUITE FOLLOW WHAT YOUR ANSWER WAS TO MARVIN'S QUESTION ABOUT NEW MILITARY EQUIPMENT BEING -- WHAT?

A. I SAID THAT BY NEW MILITARY EQUIPMENT WE MEAN BEYOND THE ORIGINAL C-130 DEAL THAT IS BEING IMPLEMENTED AT THE MOMENT. THAT'S OLD STUFF.

Q. THAT'S NOT COMPLETED YET?

A. NO. I THINK THERE ARE ONE OR TWO AIRPLANES REMAINING TO BE DELIVERED.

Q. ON ANOTHER SUBJECT, WHERE DOES THE STATE DEPARTMENT NOW STAND? IS THERE A HOLD ON ALL ARMS SALES?

A. WELL, AS YOU KNOW, THE ADMINISTRATION IS MAKING A REVIEW OF OUR ARMS EXPORT POLICY. PENDING THE CONCLUSION OF THIS REVIEW, CERTAIN MAJOR SALES -- MAJOR IN THE SENSE EITHER OF DOLLAR VALUE OR TYPE OF EQUIPMENT -- ARE UNDER REVIEW AND ARE BEING CONSIDERED.

NOW, I CAN'T GIVE YOU A LIST OF THESE ITEMS.

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NOW, OTHER ITEMS, AFTER REVIEW BY THE PRESIDENT ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS, ARE GOING FORWARD AND WILL BE NOTIFIED TO THE CONGRESS. I PRESUME THAT THIS NOTIFICATION WOULD BE PUBLICIZED BY THE WHITE HOUSE. AND I REALLY DON'T HAVE ANY DETAILS FOR YOU AT THIS MOMENT REGARDING WHAT ITEMS SPECIFICALLY ARE GOING FORWARD FROM THE WHITE HOUSE TO THE CONGRESS IN TERMS OF NOTIFICATION.

Q. WELL, CAN YOU TELL US WHAT THE CRITERIA ARE BY WHICH YOU DECIDE WHICH IS GOING TO BE HELD? IS IT THE KIND OF WEAPON, IS IT THE PLACE TO WHICH IT IS GOING, OR IS IT THE SIZE?

A. I THINK THERE ARE A LOT OF CRITERIA; BUT THAT, AS THE PRESIDENT SAID, IS BEING DECIDED BY HIM ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS. AND I'M SURE HE'S TAKING INTO ACCOUNT A NUMBER OF FACTORS IN MAKING HIS FINAL DECISION WITH REGARD TO NOTIFICATION.

Q. WHEN YOU SAY THAT SOME SALES ARE GOING FORWARD, ARE WE DISTINGUISHING HERE BETWEEN OLD CONTRACTS BEING FULFILLED AND NEW CONTRACTS BEING MADE? AND, IF SO, HAVE ANY NEW CONTRACTS -- NEW AGREEMENTS OR DEALS --

A. I DON'T KNOW.

Q. -- OR WHATEVER THE TERM YOU USE --

A. I CAN'T GIVE YOU A BREAKDOWN. THERE ARE THE MAJOR CATEGORY AND THE NON-MAJOR CATEGORY -- AND, AS I'VE JUST SAID, SOME OF THE NON-MAJOR ARE GOING FORWARD. THEY'RE BEING NOTIFIED TO THE HILL, BUT I CAN'T BREAK THEM DOWN FOR YOU INTO SPECIFICS.

Q. ALL RIGHT, BUT CAN YOU SAY THAT SOME MINOR ONES HAVE GONE FORWARD IN THE LAST TWO MONTHS THEN? IS THAT -- UNCLASSIFIED

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A. I CAN'T. I DON'T HAVE A BREAKDOWN ON IT FOR YOU. THAT IS SOMETHING THAT IS BEING VERY CAREFULLY REVIEWED. AND THE PRESIDENT IS MAKING THE DECISION ON THE MATTER.

Q. THAT'S WHAT YOU SAID. YOU SAID ON SOME ITEMS THEY ARE GOING FORWARD. THAT IS WHAT MY NOTES HAVE YOU SAYING.

A. YES, AFTER REVIEW BY THE PRESIDENT ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS.

Q. SO, HE JUST ASKED YOU THE SAME QUESTION AND YOU SAID YOU DON'T KNOW.

A. WELL, THEY ARE IN THE PROCESS OF GOING FORWARD AND THEY WILL BE NOTIFIED TO CONGRESS AND THERE WOULD BE, I AM SURE, AT THE APPROPRIATE MOMENT AN ANNOUNCEMENT MADE.

Q. WELL, THE QUESTION IS WHETHER ALL SALES HAVE BEEN, WHETHER ALL NEW AGREEMENTS, HAVE BEEN STOPPED OR SOME, IN FACT, ARE STILL MOVING THAT ARE NOT UNDER THE CRITERIA YOU REFERRED TO.

A. I CAN'T GIVE YOU ANY BREAKDOWN AS TO WHERE IN THE PROCESS OF DECISION THESE VARIOUS THINGS ARE. I CAN'T ENLIGHTEN YOU.

Q. SO, WHAT YOU ARE SAYING ABOUT SOME GOING FORWARD TO CONGRESS THEN LEAVES IT A LITTLE BIT MUDDY.

A. WELL, ARE IN THE CURRENT TIME FRAME GOING FORWARD, FOLLOWING DECISION, REVIEW BY DECISION.

Q. ALL RIGHT. IF THEY ARE GOING FORWARD THEN THAT MEANS THAT A DECISION IS IN THE PROCESS OF BEING MADE.  
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Q. BUT HASN'T BEEN YET. SO, IN FACT, NO DEALS HAVE BEEN APPROVED.

A. I DON'T HAVE ANY INFORMATION ON IT.

Q. IT'S A LITTLE MUDDY. I AM SORRY. OBVIOUSLY YOU ARE NOT CLEAR ON IT, BUT IT IS A LITTLE MUDDY. EITHER DEALS HAVE BEEN APPROVED OR HAVE NOT BEEN APPROVED BY THE NEW ADMINISTRATION IN THE LAST FEW MONTHS. WE NOW HAVE IT IN SORT OF A MUDDY MID-WAY SITUATION.

A. IT IS A QUESTION OF NOTIFICATION OF CONGRESS. IT IS NOT AS IF THE APPROVAL IS MADE SPECIFICALLY AT ANY ONE POINT IN TIME. I REALLY CAN'T GIVE YOU ANYTHING MORE ON IT THAN THAT.

Q. WELL, IN YOUR LIST OF CRITERIA I DID NOT HEAR -- MAYBE I MISSED IT SOMEWHERE -- I DID NOT HEAR YOU MENTION POLITICAL SENSITIVITY.

A. I DIDN'T GIVE YOU A LIST OF CRITERIA. JIM DID, AND I SIMPLY SAID A NUMBER OF FACTORS ARE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT.

Q. ALL RIGHT. IS POLITICAL SENSITIVITY ONE OF THE FACTORS? YOU DID GIVE US A LIST IN THE SENSE YOU TALK ABOUT SIZE AND OTHER THINGS.

A. YES. SIZE AND VALUE.

Q. ALL RIGHT. THOSE ARE SOME OF YOUR CRITERIA. NOW, IS POLITICAL SENSITIVITY ONE OF THE CRITERIA, SUCH AS ARMING ONE COUNTRY THAT MAKES A NEIGHBOR MAD BECAUSE THEY FEEL THEY ARE THEN BEING THREATENED?

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A. LET'S JUST SAY THERE ARE A NUMBER OF FACTORS BEING TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT.

Q. HOW ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE ARMS SALES? IS THAT A CONSIDERATION?

A. I WOULDN'T WANT TO IDENTIFY ALL THE CONSIDERATIONS WHICH MIGHT BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN ANY ONE OF THESE CASES. I DON'T WANT TO GET INTO SPECIFICS. I REALLY CAN'T.

Q. JODY POWELL SAID ON TELEVISION YESTERDAY SPECIFICALLY THAT TWO OR THREE ITEMS HAVE BEEN APPROVED BY THE PRESIDENT FOR ISRAEL SINCE HE TOOK OVER. DO YOU KNOW WHETHER THERE ARE NEW ITEMS?

A. I DON'T. THAT IS WHY I AM VERY LEERY ABOUT TRYING TO TELL YOU AT WHAT POINT IN THE DECISION-MAKING PROCESS THESE THINGS ARE AND BECAUSE THEY HAVE TO GO UP TO THE HILL FOR NOTIFICATION AND, QUITE FRANKLY, THERE ARE LITERALLY DOZENS OF INDIVIDUAL CASES AND I CERTAINLY CAN'T GET INTO TELLING YOU WHERE IN THE TRAIN OF DECISION-MAKING EACH ONE OF THESE LIES.

Q. ON AN AGGREGATE BASIS IT WAS REPORTED ON SUNDAY

MORNING THAT THERE IS ABOUT DOLS 6 BILLION IN ARMS SALES THAT IS BEING HELD IN THIS REVIEW. CAN YOU TELL US IF THAT IS AN ACCURATE FIGURE, AS FAR AS YOU KNOW?

A. I THINK THAT IS A GOOD BALLPARK FIGURE, BUT DON'T FORGET THERE ARE NEW ITEMS MOVING INTO THE PROCESS, NEW REQUESTS OR NEW ITEMS BEING CONSIDERED.

SO, THAT IS A BALLPARK FIGURE. SOMEWHERE BETWEEN 5 AND 6 BILLION I AM TOLD IS THE BALLPARK FIGURE.

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Q. CAN YOU GIVE US A LITTLE MORE DETAIL ON THIS IN THIS WAY?

WHEN SINCE THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION HAS TAKEN HOLD OR HAS COME INTO POWER HAVE ANY LETTERS GONE TO THE HILL OR ANY ARMS MOVED ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD FROM THE UNITED STATES?

A. HAVE ANY ARMS MOVED ANYWHERE?

Q. TO ANY COUNTRY. HAVE THERE BEEN ANY SALES?

A. I CAN'T GIVE YOU IN ALL HONESTY A VERY GOOD ANSWER TO THAT BECAUSE HAVE ANY ARMS MOVED ANYWHERE, THAT IS VERY VAGUE. I AM SORRY. I JUST CAN'T REALLY ADDRESS IT.

I THINK THE MAIN THING IS TO HARK BACK TO WHAT THE PRESIDENT SAID ABOUT A THOROUGH REVIEW OF OUR ARMS SALES POLICY. THAT IS THE CENTRAL THING. THAT IS IN PROCESS AT THE MOMENT. HE IS MAKING THE DECISION ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS AND, AS I SAID, THERE ARE MANY CASES INVOLVED.

I THINK THAT IS REALLY THE CENTRAL THING.

Q. THE WASHINGTON POST SAID ON SUNDAY THAT THE REVIEW WILL BE COMPLETED BY THE END OF NEXT MONTH, I THINK. CAN YOU CONFIRM THAT?

A. I CAN'T CONFIRM THAT, NO. I CAN'T REALLY FORECAST EXACTLY WHEN ALL THESE DECISIONS WILL BE MADE.

Q. DO YOU HAVE SOMETHING ON THE ARAB BOYCOTT TO TELL US TODAY?

A. NO. I WENT ON AT SOME LENGTH ON THAT ON FRIDAY.  
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Q. YES.

A. I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING BEYOND THAT.

Q. WELL, 72 HOURS HAVE ELAPSED. IS THERE ANY CHANGE IN THE POSITION OF THE ADMINISTRATION TOWARDS THE TWO ELEMENTS THAT THE CONGRESS, SOME CONGRESSIONAL CRITICS ARE VERY CONCERNED ABOUT, LIKE THE SELECTIVE TREATMENT OF A COMPANY THAT AN ARAB GOVERNMENT MIGHT CHOOSE?

A. WE PUT OUT AN ANSWER TO A QUESTION TAKEN ON FRIDAY WHICH ADDRESSED A QUESTION RAISED BY -- I FORGET WHO ON FRIDAY REGARDING SELECTIVE --

Q. -- UNILATERAL SELECTION.

A. YES. UNILATERAL SELECTION. I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING BEYOND THAT.

Q. WHO IS HANDLING THE SITUATION NOW FOR THE GOVERNMENT, THE ADMINISTRATION SIDE, IN THE ARAB BOYCOTT IN RELATION TO DISCUSSIONS WITH THE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE?

A. WHAT DO YOU MEAN WHO IS HANDLING IT? WHAT DEPARTMENT?

Q. I MEAN IS THE WHITE HOUSE CARRYING THE BALL ON IT OR THE ADMINISTRATION OR IS THE STATE DEPARTMENT DOING IT WITH THE COMMITTEES BECAUSE THERE WAS A DISCUSSION. WHO IS DOING THIS NOW?

A. WELL, CERTAINLY THE STATE DEPARTMENT IS PLAYING A VERY IMPORTANT ROLE IN TALKING TO THE HILL ABOUT IT. THE WHITE HOUSE IS OBVIOUSLY AS WELL. COMMERCE IS ALSO INVOLVED. CARRYING THE BALL, MAYBE IT IS A JOINT CARRYING OF THE BALL.

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Q. I WAS WONDERING WHO ACTUALLY WAS IN THE LEADERSHIP?

A. THE WHITE HOUSE LEADS.

CHRISTOPHER

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

## Message Attributes

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